

REMARKS

Claims 11-16 are pending in the application. Claims 11, 13, 14, and 16 are amended as indicated above by replacing "comprising" with -- consisting essentially of --. No new matter has been added.

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the Advisory Action After Final mailed September 26, 2007, and for the brief telephone conference on October 17, 2007. During the telephone conference, the current amendments were discussed, though agreement as to patentability was not reached. Applicants submit that, as amended, the claims are allowable over the art of record.


In particular, Example 1 of the specification indicates that using Tripterygium hypoglaucum (Levl.) Hutch by itself can treat Rheumatism. At the same time, however, it causes the thymus to atrophy. Additional data submitted in response to the Final Rejection also indicates that using Tripterygium hypoglaucum (Levl.) Hutch solely or in combination with various other herbs causes the testicles of mice to atrophy, and also causes antibody generation to be restrained. In contrast, the present invention, which recites a pharmaceutical mixture for treating rheumatism consisting essentially of the four herbs recited in claim 11, in the amounts recited, is both highly effective at treating rheumatism and does not suffer the negative side-effects that other herbal combinations and sole applications can cause.

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Accordingly, Applicants ask the Examiner to reconsider the claims as amended and issue a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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